ISSN 0704-3716

Canadian Translation of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

No. 5572

Norwegian fisheries 1991

[Author unknown]

Original title: Norges fiskerier 1991

In: Fisk. Gang Nr. 1, Januar 1992: 4-9.

Original language: Norwegian

Available from:
Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information
National Research Council
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0S2

1992

21 typescript pages

Department of the Secretary of State of Canada

Secrétariat d'État du Canada

MULTILINGUAL TRANSLATION DIRECTORATE - TRANSLATION BUREAU
DIRECTION DE LA TRADUCTION MULTILINGUE
BUREAU DE LA TRADUCTION

Translation letterhead

Originator file No.	Department	Division/Branch	City
E-Jes	DFO	Sci.Publ., Communications	

Translation Request No.	Language	Translator (initials)
3850582	Norwegian	LT

Fiskets Gang
01 January 1992

NORWEGIAN FISHERIES 1991

The Norwegian fishermen landed in 1991 about 355 000 t more fish than in 1990. Provisional figures show that 162 000 t of cod were landed to a first-hand value of almost NOK 1.6 billion.

In 1991, the Barents Sea was again open for both winter and fall capelin fishery. Norwegian fishermen landed 564 000 t of capelin, with a first-hand value of well over NOK 304 billion. We have to go back to 1985 to find capelin fishery figures higher than this.

The figures show also that pollock and Greenland halibut fisheries were very good in 1991 and that a great upswing took place in the mackerel fishery. On the other hand, shrimping declined considerably both in quantity and in value, as did the blue whiting fishery.

Besides cod, the fisheries traditionally most valuable for Norway are those for pollock, shrimp, and mackerel.

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Cod north of N 62°

The total quota for Norwegian Arctic cod increased from 1990 to 1991 by 55 000 t. According to the Soviet - Norway agreement, 215 000 t were to be fished in 1991. Additionally, there was an agreement on 40 000 t of Norwegian coastal cod. Upon distribution between the two countries, Norway's quota amounted to 128 500 t. 18 000 t were set aside for third countries.

32 125 t (25 %) of the Norwegian quota were given to trawlers and 96 375 t to the conventional fleet. Subsequently, 1 500 t of the trawler district quota were transferred to the conventional fleet.

Out of the total 97 875 t for the conventional fleet, 70 375 t were set aside for vessel quotas, 18 500 t for maximum quotas, and 9 000 t for secondary catch and other.

Based on the 1990 experiences, a considerable over-allotment took place within the vessel quota system at the beginning of the year. In 1990, two re-allotments had to be carried out relatively late in the year, which was to be avoided in 1991.

In the course of the winter, two new allotment rounds of the vessel quotas took place so that over-allotment amounted to a full 20 %. The vessel quotas were also used to a much larger degree than anticipated, with the result that a significant overfishing of the group quota took place within the vessel quota system.

Allotments for maximum quotas were, from the beginning of the year, divided between periods so that 60 % of the 17 000 t could be fished before May 01. However, the fishery situation resulted in a cancellation of the periods, and the fishing was stopped on April 12, because the whole quota had been exhausted.

On June 3, the area N of 62° was opened for direct fishing for up to 1000 t cod for delivery to Finnmark by vessels below 9 m l.l. These 750 t consisted of 250 t from the "Finnmark quota" and 500 t from the trawler quota.

All in all, the preliminary figures show that the quota set aside for fishing with conventional gear was overfished by a full 23 000 t in 1991.

Out of the trawler quota, which had been initially 32 125 t, 3000 t were set aside for district quotas. 29 125 t remained to be allotted. The large trawlers were given a quota of 294 t, while the quotas for small trawlers ranged from 68 to 221 t.

The entire group quota for trawlers was distributed over individual vessels, meaning that secondary catch had to be included in the vessel quota. However, several shipowners had problems with this quota, and the Fisheries Department thus gave a permit for 10 % secondary catch in the landings of other species from November 13 to the end of the year.

Cod fishery was stopped for Easter in 1991 as well.

At the beginning of the 1991 fishing season, secondary cod catch during fishing for other species had been set at 10 %. From September 2, it was increased to 25 %.

In 1991, the Easter holiday was extended to apply to trawlers as well. A minor re-allotment was carried out within the factory trawler group in mid-September. Besides, the district quota, which amounted to 1 500 t after transfers to the conventional fleet, was divided upon a petition on Sept 5. The conditions stated that the quota should be delivered to and processed at onshore plants, but it was not specified where the catch should be landed.

Haddock north of N 62°

At the beginning of 1991, the Norwegian Arctic haddock population was faced with an alarming situation. Therefore, the Norway-Soviet Fisheries Committee agreed to restrict haddock fishery as much as possible. The total quota was set at 28 000 t, which was intended to cover unvoidable secondary catch and a limited coastal fishing.

According to the negotiations, Norwegian fishermen could take 14 500 t haddock and up to 5 000 t coastal haddock. 3 625 t of the Norwegian quota was given to the trawlers and 15 875 t to the conventional fleet.

Two direct haddock fishery events were arranged in 1991 for vessels over 27.5 m l.l. Starting from January 22, up to 3000 t could be fished, with a maximum quota of 4 t per vessel. This fishery was stopped on May 04.

7 500 t were permitted to be fished starting from July 01. The maximum quotas for this period ranged from 5 to 55 t. The fishing was stopped on August 24, when the quota had been taken.

During the rest of the year, haddock could be caught as a secondary catch only.

Secondary catch was included in the trawler per-vessel quotas from the beginning of the year. From July 15, trawlers were permitted to have secondary haddock catches of up to 5 %.

The 1991 haddock quota will be most probably marginally overfished.

Cod and haddock in the North Sea

The North Sea cod and haddock fisheries consist mainly of secondary catches, but they are relatively important for individual vessels. About 5000 t of cod and almost 2000 t of haddock were fished in 1991.

Cod in NAFO and Greenland

Norway had a 1200-t cod quota for 1991 at Flemish Cap in the NAFO area. As many as 24 vessels were interested, but only 4 could be accommodated.

Norwegian longliners were permitted, for the first time in many years, to fish for cod at East Greenland on a licence granted by Royal Greenland. Four companies were interested. The fishing was reported to be partially good. The longliner fleet was also able to fish in areas to which access with other fishing gear would have been difficult.

Greenland halibut

Greenland halibut was subject to a great fishing pressure in 1991. About 24 000 t were taken in the Norwegian Sea and the Barents Sea, which is double the tonnage taken in 1989.

ICES recommended a take of 9000 t Greenland halibut for 1991. Norway and the Soviets agreed that 7000 t of this could be fished in the Norwegian economic zone.

The minimum size for Greenland halibut was set at 45 cm in the Norwegian economic zone. Starting from 1991, this applied to foreign vessels as well. The minimum size does not apply to the Svalbard zone, even though the Norwegian side has recommended it. However, a number of Norwegian vessels fish undersized Greenland halibut in the Svalbard zone in the summer.

The small quotas for cod and haddock, combined with the high prices of Greenland halibut, have made the latter fish economically important. The

strong fishing pressure on Greenland halibut has resulted in a situation which indicates that the coastal fishery should be restricted in 1992.

A number of Norwegian factory vessels fished on licence for Greenland halibut off the coast of Canada in 1991. The total catch shown in the Table includes the quantity fished.

Pollock in the North Sea ...

In 1991, Norway had a pollock quota of 55 000 t for the North Sea, of which quantity the Norwegian fishermen were able to take somewhat less than 49 000 t.

11 000 t had been earmarked for seining, while no quotas were specified for other fishing gear.

Pollock catches in the North Sea amounted to about 28 000 t, which means an increase of over 8000 t from the year before.

... and pollock north of N 62°

North of N 62°, the pollock quota was 87 000 t. On August 23, the quota was increased by 10 000 t, which was to be shared 50/50 between seiners and trawlers. Besides, foreign fishermen were allowed to take 3000 t.

35 500 t of the quantity were allotted to seining, 28 500 t to trawling, and the rest was earmarked for gillnets and other conventional gear. 5000

t of the trawler quota were reserved for vessels with industrial trawls and/or North Sea permits.

Summer 1991 provided very good pollock trawling, which resulted in that the trawlers' fishing season came to an end on August 5. For industrial trawlers, fishing stopped on August 24.

The group quota for cod trawlers was increased from 23 500 t to 28 500 t on August 23. On Sept 26, the season ended for freshfish trawlers fishing for the supplementary quota.

No maximum quotas were set for seining at the beginning of the year, but quantity-limiting measures became necessary in May because of successful fishing. Maximum quotas ranging from 240 t to 1120 t were introduced retroactively from January 1.

Of the total quota, 10 650 t were reserved for the period before July 19. This period quota was later increased to 13 650 t.

Exemptions from the requirement for bleeding pollock immediately brailed from seine nets were cancelled starting from June 12. However, exemptions were granted starting from July 20 for up to 8000 t which were to be used for hanging and salting.

4000 t of the seine quota, which was increased by 5000 t on August 23, was set aside for fishing later in the year.

The total pollock catch north of N 62° amounted to approx. 107 000 t.

Redfish

The total 1991 quota for redfish had been set at 12 000 t, while for deepwater redfish it was 24 000 t. Other countries were permitted to fish a maximum of 14 000 t of redfish (mixture of both species) in Norway's economic zone.

Seven Norwegian factory vessels fished for redfish in the Irminger Sea, an international water SW of Iceland. The vessels took about 300 t redfish. With suitable prices, this fishery can develop into an interesting supplement to other fishing.

A total of 34 000 t redfish was taken by Norwegian fishermen in 1990, while in 1991 the total was 45 000 t, in spite of poor fishing results in November and December 1991. Besides, foreign vessels took close to 10 500 t in the Norwegian economic zone and the Svalbard zone.

Atlantic argentine

The Atlantic argentine quota for 1991 had been set at 19 000 t, the same as in 1990. However, Norwegian fishermen did not manage to exhaust the quota, and a total of 8900 t was taken.

Demersal fish in foreign zones

Norwegian fishermen had in 1991 a quota of 5800 t bank fish at the Faroe Islands, which was an increase of 200 t from the year before. Fishing at the Faroes was not as good as in 1990, and the quota was not taken fully.

In the EC zone, Norwegian quotas were for 1000 t blue ling, 12 000 t European ling and 6000 t cusk. Norwegian fishermen were also permitted to take 3000 t spiny dogfish, 100 t basking shark liver and 200 t porbeagle.

Norwegian fishery in the EC zone has gone backward in recent years. In 1991, the Norwegians were not able to exhaust their quotas in the zone. About 3000 t of European ling, cusk, and blue ling remained.

About 9600 t of spiny dogfish was taken in 1991, 500 t of this in Skagerrak and 2500 t in the North Sea. The best spiny dogfish fishery took place, however, off the coast of North Trondelag.

Norway had no bankfish quota in the Icelandic zone in 1991.

Norwegian spring-spawning herring

The total quota for Norwegian spring-spawning herring was 85 000 t. Of this, 11 000 t were earmarked for Soviet fishermen, 9000 t were set aside to cover unregistered mortality, and 65 000 t were to be divided between Norwegian fishermen. 64 % were earmarked for coastal vessels, 32 % for purse seiners, and 4 % for trawlers.

As previously, the purse seine fleet had per-vessel quotas in accordance with the universal system, yielding a coefficient of 0.53. Both the purse seine fleet and the trawlers had a shorter than usual herring season in 1991, because no fishable stocks occurred in the fjords of South Troms.

The coastal fleet was subject to maximum quotas. The unit quota was 135 hL. Out of the group quota of 41 600 t, 60 % could be fished before Sept 14. 10 000 hL of the quota was set aside for gillnet fishery for herring. The group quota of the coastal fleet was exhausted by Oct 31.

Herring south of N 62°

Norway had a total quota of 140 850 t for herring in the North Sea, Skagerrak and west of 4° W.

The Norwegian total herring quota for the North Sea was 118 110 t, including a transfer of 15 200 t from EC. Upon re-negotiations between EC and Norway in June, Norway's quota was increased by 12 000 t. Norway had a quota of 13 940 t for the North Sea. The Skagerrak agreement was changed at the end of August, which increased Norway's herring quota by 2600 t, to 16 540 t. West of 4° W, Norwegian fishermen could take 6200 t.

The quotas were divided between the different fishing gears so that purse seiners had 113 850 t, trawlers 20 000 t, and the coastal fleet 700 t. The trawlers' share was to cover secondary catch in industrial trawling.

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The herring fishery conducted by purse seiners was regulated in 1991 by individual quotas per vessel in the North Sea, Skagerrak, and also west of 4° W. Prior to the re-allotment, the coefficients were 2.35 for the North Sea, 0.4 for Skagerrak, and 0.16 for west of 4° W. Transfers from the industrial trawler group to the purse seiner group greatly increased the North Sea coefficient. After the final re-allotment, the coefficient was 2.8.

A total of 128 000 t was landed by direct fishing.

Capelin in the Barents Sea

The Barents Sea was opened for capelin fishing in 1991. Norway and the Soviets agreed about a total quota of 850 000 t, with 510 000 t for Norway and 340 000 t for the Soviets. A transfer of 20 000 t from the Soviets took place at the season's end, so that Norway had a total of 530 000 t at its disposal.

The Norwegian quota was divided between the different groups, with 390 000 t for purse seiners, 50 000 t for trawlers, and 70 000 t for the coastal fleet.

The purse seine group was subject to per-vessel quotas pursuant to the universal system for purse seining, with a coefficient of 10.0.

The trawler group had maximum quotas so that vessels under 36 m l.l. could take 7000 hL, while bigger vessels could take 9000 hL.

The coastal fleet had maximum quotas as well. Vessels under 27.5 m l.l. could take 6000 hL and bigger vessels 9000 hL.

422 vessels had signed up by the registration deadline of Jan 2. The fishing was opened on Jan 11. The last departure date was March 8.

Three re-allotments took place in the trawler and coastal groups, with the result that the maximum quotas in both groups were increased to 18 000 hL.

A re-allotment was carried out also after the last departure date, increasing the coefficient for the purse seine fleet to 11.4.

The re-allotments that took place among the groups proved to be bigger than needed. Capelin was easy to locate and deliver. Therefore, the total quantity was estimated to have been fished by April 2. 20 000 t were then transferred from the Soviets, so that fishing could again be opened for the coastal and trawling group on April 6.

As agreed with the Soviets, the fishing was stopped on April 30. By that date, the 530 000-t quota had been exhausted.

For the first time in many years, the Barents Sea was open for fall fishing for capelin. Norway and the Soviets agreed about 250 000 t, the Norwegian share of it being 150 000 t.

The season opened Sept 16, and 67 licenced purse seine vessels signed up. They got maximum quotas. The catches from the fall fishing were to be deducted from the 1992 capelin winter quotas, with the result that many vessels did not go out at all. Thus, participation was low, also because there were other fisheries going on.

At the end of October, the Soviets had a transfer of 50 000 t. In the Norway-Soviet quota negotiations, they got a further 20 000 t, subsequently followed by another 20 000 t; a total of 90 000 t. Norway is compensated for this in the winter fishery for capelin.

Capelin at Iceland, Greenland and Jan Mayen

Norway, Iceland and Greenland agreed to keep the capelin fishery closed until they would have access to population estimates. On Oct 24, Iceland proposed that capelin fishery be opened, referring to the findings of a scientific expedition.

Based on the regular allotment system, Norway got a quota of 26 400 t. In December, Iceland proposed that the total quota be raised from 240 000 t to 440 000 t. This meant that Norway could take 48 400 t. Additionally, Norway claims 17 903 t as a compensation for Iceland's overfishing in 1990 and 1991.

Fifty-seven vessels signed up for capelin fishery off Iceland, but no fishing was started before the turn of the year. The fishery was regulated

so that each vessel that had signed up could have a fishing trip until licence capacity was exhausted within the Norwegian quota.

Capelin at Newfoundland

Norway had in 1991 a quota for 9000 t capelin in the NAFO area outside the Canadian boundary. Only 4 of the 15 vessels that had signed up participated in the fishery. Nothing was caught. Due to i.a. the low sea temperature, capelin had changed their migration route completely.

Mackerel

The 1991 agreement between Norway and EC moved the boundary separating the western mackerel from the North Sea component from 59° to 57°30', because the North Sea component is very small, both relatively and absolutely, in comparison with the quantities of western mackerel occurring in the North Sea area.

Norway had a total mackerel quota of 177 450 t in 1991, with an increase of 31 180 t from 1990. Out of the total quota, 14 000 t could be taken west of 4° W and 42 610 t from the North Sea.

Norway had a quota of 106 340 t for north of 62°, in addition to 14 500 t from the Faroe Islands, so that a total of 120 840 t could be fished north of 62°. The 1991 Norway - EC agreement had a new item according to which 60 000 t of the quota for north of 62° could be taken in the ICES area IVa in the North Sea.

The coastal fleet was subject to maximum quotas calculated on the basis of a cargo capacity of 900 hL and a corresponding basic quota of 1860 hL. 20 000 t was set aside for this group.

Industrial trawlers had a group quota of 5000 t. The fishing was subject to maximum quotas and trip quotas. Maximum quotas were removed in the final re-allotment. The fishery was opened on Oct. 1, on the condition that the catches were to be delivered for consumption.

The group quota of the purse seine fleet was 152 450 t. The fishing took place with individual vessel quotas in accordance with the regular allotment system. The special regulations concerning mackerel over 600 g (G6) were observed in 1991.

The last date of departure for north of 62° was Sept 2 and for south of 62° Oct 1.

The purse seine fleet was allowed to start as early as in January, but only a few vessels participated, taking 2000 t. Gillnet fishery started at the turn of July/August off Trondelag and More. Many vessels decided to postpone the start, to get better quality and prices.

Late in the fall, the fishing was partially very poor, but in the Norwegian zone mackerel was plentiful. A total of 179 000 t was taken in 1991.

Horse mackerel

Horse mackerel fishery was not as good in 1991 as it had been in the preceding years. About 52 700 t were taken all in all, which is less than half of the 1990 catch, which was exceptionally good. The fishery was not regulated in 1991.

Norway had a horse mackerel quota of 10 000 t in the Faroese zone, of which Norwegian fishermen took 2500 t.

Brisling

Norway had in 1991 a [North Sea] brisling quota of 2000 t in the EC zone. The fishing was unregulated but had to be stopped on Aug 12, because the total quota was exhausted.

Upon re-negotiations with EC, Norway's quota was increased by 3000 t. On Dec 16, limited fishing was opened up in the EC zone, subject to a 150-t quota per trip.

Blue whiting

In 1991, Norway had a blue whiting quota of 155 000 t for the EC zone and 30 000 t for the Faroese zone. The fishery was no great success in 1991, partly because the fish were quite scattered. Compared with the 1990 result in the EC zone, less than half the quantity was taken. In the Faroese zone, the catch amounted to an insignificant 495 t.

Sandlance and Norway pout

According to the agreement with EC, Norway could have taken 30 000 t sandlance and 20 000 t Norway pout in the EC zone. The quota was not utilized. In the Norwegian zone, the fishery was unregulated.

The sandlance fishery was better in 1991 than in 1990. 145 000 t were taken, which was an increase of about 50 000 t over 1990.

For Norway pout, the quantity taken amounted to about 116 000 t, which meant a decline of about 25 000 t from 1990.

Shrimp

The same quantity of shrimp was taken in the Barents Sea in 1991 as the year before. The shrimping was unregulated. The introduction of separator grids made it possible for shrimp trawlers to stay in areas that otherwise would have been closed due to too many young in the catch.

In spite of the reasonably large catches, shrimping was characterized by receiving difficulties and low prices.

Off East Greenland, the Norwegian shrimp quota was 2500 t in 1991. The shrimping was subject to vessel quotas and a maximum of 15 vessels simultaneously in the Greenlandic zone as well as many re-allotments in the course of the year. Shrimping off Greenland resulted in about the same

quantitites as in 1990, which means that the quota was fully utilized in 1991 as well.

ACMF issued in 1991 for the first time a comprehensive shrimping recommendation for the ICES areas IIIa (Skagerrak) and IVa (the Norwegian Trench), as a great exchange was proven to take place between shrimp populations in this area. The total quota was set at 12 000 t, EC was given 1080 t, and Sweden received a licence for 146 t in the Norwegian economic zone.

Shrimping in 1991 was regulated through 4-tonne trip quotas and protection over holidays. Norwegian and EC shrimpers did not take their share of the quota, but the Swedes took a bit more than their share.

Seals

A total of 14 719 seals were taken by Norwegian sealers in 1991.

The two sealing boats in the Western Ice area [off Greeland's east coast] took 4867 harp seals and 352 hooded seals, while the quota was for 5400 harp and 1000 hooded seals.

In the Eastern Ice area [W and SW of Novaya Zemlya], two vessels participated in the sealing, taking the whole quota of 9500 harp seals.

Molluscs

In 1991, two Norwegian vessels dredged for molluscs around Svalbard and in the Barents Sea, while 'Concordia' carried out dredging off Canada. The last-mentioned vessel sailed under the Norwegian flag til spring 1991, and is now sailing under the Canadian flag.

The two vessels dredging for molluscs in the Norwegian zone were entitled to a total of 1500 t in a delineated area at Jan Mayen. They divided this quota between them. Limited fishing was allowed also within parts of the closed grounds at Bear Island.

All in all, about 700 t of mussel was taken in 1991.

NORWEGIAN FISHERIES 1991

Quantities and values of main fish species/nominal catch.

Fiskesorter/*Species*	Kvantum i tonn *(Quantity in tons)*				Verdi i 1000 kr. *(Value)*			
	1988	1989	1990*	1991*[1])	1988	1989	1990*	1991*[1])
Lodde *Capelin*	72 672	108 329	92 000	564 000	57 931	86 378	66 000	304 500
Øyepål, *Norway pout*	62 052	123 556	142 000	120 000	39 537	84 974	90 000	71 500
Kolmule, *Blue whiting*	209 740	285 899	284 000	119 000	109 804	188 317	164 000	67 500
Tobis, *Sandeel*	191 653	194 656	95 800	145 500	121 227	149 632	59 600	88 800
Hestmakrell, *Horse mackerel*	44 980	89 107	121 700	53 000	35 197	71 550	83 200	38 000
Makrell, *Mackerel*	162 139	143 310	150 000	179 000	320 344	277 025	408 000	500 000
Sild, *Herring*	338 823	274 941	207 000	198 000	407 943	388 785	348 000	350 000
Brisling, *Sprat*	11 899	4 899	6 200	34 000	38 234	23 221	24 000	39 000
Sum lodde, makrell, sild etc. *Capelin, mackerel, herring etc.*	1 093 957	1 204 697	1 098 700	1 412 500	1 130 217	1 269 883	1 242 800	1 459 300
Torsk, *Cod*	252 424	186 353	124 000	162 000	1 706 562	1 283 243	1 126 300	1 578 000
Hyse, *Haddock*	62 831	38 512	22 500	24 000	310 702	212 123	163 900	186 500
Sei, *Saithe*	148 369	144 500	112 000	137 000	449 706	427 104	409 000	556 500
Brosme, *Tusk*	23 019	32 253	26 000	25 500	94 699	161 216	159 500	155 000
Lange/Blålange, *Ling/Blue ling*	23 625	28 597	24 000	23 000	175 043	221 641	192 400	236 000
Blåkveite, *Greenland halibut*	9 095	11 045	22 000	29 000	53 436	77 578	230 000	313 800
Uer, *Redfish*	25 374	27 468	41 400	47 000	110 079	98 706	175 000	190 600
Strøm- og vassild, *Silver smelt*	17 971	22 679	10 700	8 900	33 943	32 878	26 000	23 500
Andre og uspes. fiskesorter *Various and other fish*	28 919	28 793	39 400	30 000	181 875	164 070	253 000	199 000
Sum torskefisk etc. *Codfishes etc.*	591 626	520 200	424 000	486 400	3 116 046	2 664 450	2 735 100	3 438 900
Krabbe, *Crab*	1 349	1 449	1 400	1 450	9 512	10 575	10 300	8 000
Hummer, *Lobster*	28	34	30	30	3 162	4 187	4 000	3 800
Sjøkreps, *Norway lobster*	106	72	180	300	4 833	3 384	10 000	16 000
Reke, *Prawn*	42 171	56 082	62 300	48 000	706 874	775 984	807 400	620 000
Skjell, *Molluscs*	20 327	6 118	7 300	6 840	61 806	48 567	38 000	36 000
Sum skalldyr og skjell *Crustaceans and molluscs*	63 980	63 756	71 210	56 620	786 187	842 697	869 700	683 800
Total	1 749 564	1 788 653	1 593 910	1 955 520	5 032 451	4 777 030	4 847 600	5 582 000
Tang og tare, *Seaweed*	172 148	182 728	197 000	190 570	24 619	26 784	29 000	28 600
Total inkl tang og tare *Total included seaweed*	1 921 712	1 971 381	1 790 910	2 146 090	5 057 070	4 803 814	4 876 600	5 610 600

* Foreløpige tall. *Preliminary figures.*

[1]) Inneholder ikke fisket ved New Zealand. *Do not include fishing by New Zealand.*